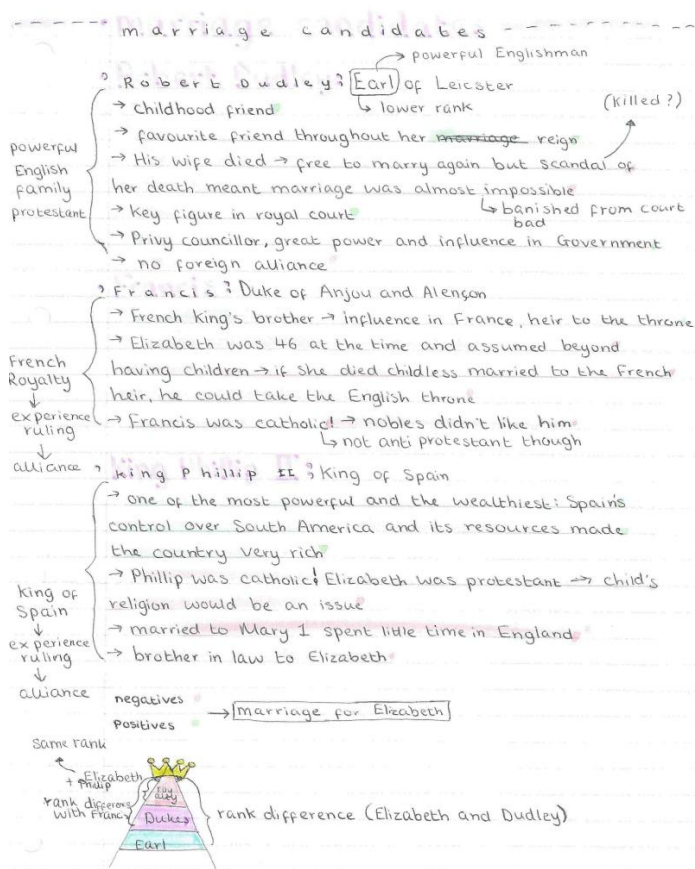


Upper 5 study politics and dynastic marriage in Tudor England



Upper 5 have continued their study of Elizabethan England by examining the controversial question of who Elizabeth I ought to have married. Upper 5 pupils have assessed Elizabeth's possible distaste for marriage by examining her childhood and the conduct of Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, towards his wives. Pupils then studied contemporary candidates for Elizabeth's husband, such as Francis, Duke of Anjou, and Philip II of Spain. Upper 5 took care to weigh the positives and negatives of each candidate by evaluating their characters, resources, religious affiliation, social status and political alignment. This topic also complemented the earlier work done by pupils on the myriad of political, financial and religious problems faced by Elizabeth I after she became queen in 1558.

During their final examination, Upper 5 may be asked to write an account of the debates over Elizabeth's marital status or explain the wider political and religious challenges to Elizabeth's regime. Their work on this topic is, therefore, intended to enable them to approach such tasks with confidence.